

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-20 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 STRE-00 /122 W

-----109701 160625Z /17

R 160537Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7938

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PASS AGRICULTURE AND STR ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA

SUBJ: STRAUSS/USHIBA FOLLOW-UP: BEEF TENDER AND SPACE

- EXPO SPECIAL QUOTA

1. MAF MEAT AND EGG DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR MIZUSUNA CALLED IN ASST AGATT MAY 15 TO ADVISE THAT IMPORTERS WOULD BID ON FIRST LIPC TENDER FOR FROZEN BEEF FIRST HALF JFY 1978 GENERAL QUOTA AT 4:00 P.M. THAT AFTERNOON. TOTAL AMOUNT TENDERED FOR IS 6,750 MT WITH 1,920 MT OR 28.4 PERCENT SPECIFIED NORTH AMERICAN ORIGIN. MIZUSUNA SAID THAT IN VIEW OF ITS IMPORTANCE AS STEP TOWARD FULFILLING STRAUSS/USHIBA COMMITMENTS, MAF HAD DECIDED TO CALL US OVER BUT THAT FOR SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT TENDERS THEY WOULD PREFER THAT USMEF BE CALLED IN BY LIPC. WE AGREED. MIZUSUNA NOTED THAT THIS IS LARGEST TENDER HE CAN RECALL AND SAID THAT QUANTITIES TO BE IMPORTED FROM NORTH AMERICA WOULD ALL BE HIGH QUALITY AND THE AMOUNT WAS SET WITH THE 8,000 MT INCREMENT UNDER THE GENERAL QUOTA FOR HIGH QUALITY BEEF IN MIND. REMAINDER OF TENDER, 4,830 MT, WILL BE SPECIFIED OCEANIAN ORIGIN. MIZUSUNA COULD NOT SAY UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS WILL NOT BE HIGH QUALITY BECAUSE THAT WOULD RAISE PROBLEMS WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. HOWEVER, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THIS 4,830 TONS WOULD BE TYPE OF BEEF TRADITIONALLY IMPORTED FROM OCEANIA.

2. MAF HAS NOT YET DETERMINED IMPORT PLAN FOR CHILLED BEEF. THIS TASK IS MORE DIFFICULT, HE SAID, BECAUSE

CHILLED BEEF HAS A DIRECT EFFECT ON DOMESTIC PRICES. HE EXPECTS THAT PLAN WILL CALL FOR REGULAR MONTHLY IMPORTS.

3. MIZUSUNA SAID NO DETERMINATION HAD BEEN MADE ON THE REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL QUOTA FOR BEEF TO BE SOLD AT SPACE EXPO. HE WAS AWARE OF OUR MAY 15 DEADLINE BUT SAID HE COULD NOT EVEN INDICATE WHEN DECISION MIGHT BE MADE. ASST AGATT PRESSED HIM TO GIVE SOME INDICATION IN ORDER TO AVOID DETRACTING FROM VERY POSITIVE STEP FORWARD IN TENDER MENTIONED ABOVE. HE APOLOGIZED FOR INABILITY TO REPLY BY TIME REQUESTED AND COULD GIVE NO INDICATION OF WHAT OUTCOME MIGHT BE.

4. ATMOSPHERE IN THIS MEETING WAS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS WITH MIZUSUNA. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY IMPRESSED WITH WHAT HE SAW IN THE U.S. AND PLEASED WITH THE PROGRAM ARRANGEMENTS, ANXIOUS TO BE FORTHCOMING AND TO COMMUNICATE MAF'S COMMITMENT TO FULFILL ITS COMMITMENTS TO IMPORT THE QUANTITIES SPECIFIED IN STRAUSS/USHIBA, AND DISTRESSED THAT HE COULD NOT ANSWER NOW ON THE SPACE EXPO QUOTA.

5. COMMENT. ATMOSPHERE IN MEETING AND SIZE OF TENDER SEEMED TO US A CLEAR INDICATION THAT MAF PLANS TO MOVE AHEAD WITHOUT DELAY TO ENSURE 10,000 TON INCREMENT IN IMPORT OF HIGH QUALITY BEEF IS REALIZED. WE WILL
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CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR SPACE EXPO QUOTA. MANSFIELD

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